sary to apply for Diwan's sanction before the timber was cut, and if it was necessary, why is it that there is this irregularity?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—I am not sure about it. I want notice.

President.—The question has been understood in the proper light, so that it is not quite correct to say that, in the absence of particulars regarding the year or years, it is not possible to answer the question. That may not be the correct answer. The reference is to what was stated in regard to the unsound monopoly trees.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I will give you fresh notice.

Article in the 'Chitrabhanu' containing certain allegations about the Forest Department.

206. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state if its attention was drawn to the article "വനപാലനം" in the 'Chitrabhanu' newspaper in its issue dated 13th Vrischigam 1104;

(b) does not the Government propose to take any action on the allegations in it?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) Necessary action has been taken.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—May I know what is the action taken in the matter?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—The explanation of the subordinates has been called for and the matter is pending.

Preparation of marking list for the felling and collection of teak.

207. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to state who was the officer who prepared the marking list of trees for the collection of 9,000 candies of teak and rosewood referred to in question No. 609 of the Legislative Session of 1104 and will the said list be placed on the Table of the House

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—The Forester in charge of the locality prepared it. The Government placed the list referred to once on the Council Table in connection with the reply to sub-division 10 of question No. 25 of the Special Session of 1104. The copy of the list is once more placed on the Council Table.

Vellani coupe.

208. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to furnish the following information with regard to the Vellani coupe:—

(1) has the contractor started work in the coupe;

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(2) were not all the trees to be felled from the coupe marked before the auction was notified ;

(3) was any fresh marking done ;

(4) if so, the reasons for the same ;

(5) were trees felled from the coupe before the new contractor started work ;

(6) have all the logs collected by the previous contractor been measured and paid for ;

(7) was the original contractor allowed felling after the auction date?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—(1) Yes.

(2) No marking was done before the auction was notified.

(3) and (4). This does not arise in view of answer to (2) above.

(5) The question is not clear.

(6) Yes.

(7) No.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—May I know what are the terms of the contract?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—The terms of the contract are that the contractor is to fell and remove two thousand candies of timber of various species and fell and remove marked trees of certain areas to the extent of two thousand candies.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Were trees not within the terms of the agreement subsequently felled by the contractor?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Yes. The felling work is going on now.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Were trees not contemplated in the agreement subsequently felled by the contractor?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—He said 'yes'.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—No. Trees marked by the Department are being felled. No trees other than those were cut.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—The question was not correctly understood.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Why was no marking done before auction was notified? Is it not the general practice to mark the trees before the auction?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—There are instances in which trees are marked after the sale.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—How can the contractor know which are the trees?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—We specify the species of timber when we notify tenders.

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